

CITY OF REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION

MINUTES

June 13, 2002

Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Jill Schmidt, Una McAlinden, Regina Riley, Rebecca LaBrunerie, Heidi Houghton, Cara Byrne, Joe Adams (arrived at 7:10 p.m.), Kay Tarapolsi (arrived at 7:30 p.m.); Youth Advocates Jamie Bakun, Jane Butterfield, David Backes

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: None

STAFF PRESENT: Melna Skillingstead, Arts Administrator; Danny Hopkins, Parks and Recreation Director, Tom Trueblood, Recreation Division Manager; Larry Andrew, Water Department

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Robinson, Nancy McCormick, Tom Paine, Richard Cole, Holly Plackett (arrived approximately 8:30 p.m.)

OTHERS PRESENT: Cris Berns, Nik Staritchenok, Paulette Rousselle

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CITY COUNCIL JOINT MEETING AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL

Chairperson Jill Schmidt called to order the joint meeting of the Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) and City Council at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center.

II. INTRODUCTIONS, PRESENTATIONS, COMMENTS

A. Introductions

Commissioner Schmidt explained that the purpose of calling the joint meeting with City Council was to inform them about the Commission, and present its mission and accomplishments. Commissioners introduced themselves, and gave a brief background of their art interests, strengths, and committee participation.

B. Multi-Media Presentation

Schmidt introduced Cris Berns and Nik Staritchenok, creators of the RAC multi-media presentation. Berns explained two purposes of the work: (1) to be used as either a stand-alone presentation that could be taken into the community for informative/marketing purposes, or (2) as a web site interactive way of exploring the Commission and learning about art throughout the City.

Commissioners and Council members viewed the presentation and praised Berns and Staritchenok for their creative production and the hundreds of volunteer hours they put into the project.

C. Project Highlights

1. Commissioner Byrne informed Council members of progress in three areas:

- Arts Education
 - Arts into Literacy K-2 Curriculum Development Project
 - Art Docent training program
 - Self-guided touring brochure used by teachers and art docents for the Outdoor Sculpture Garden
- Performing Arts
 - Arts in the Parks
 - Winter Performance Series, sponsored in part by King County Performance Network
- Visual Arts
 - Sculpture Garden, with Kay Tarapolsi as RAC volunteer curator
 - Collaborations with Public Works, Parks, and Redmond Town Center (Art Treks brochure)
 - Visual arts sculpture collection
 - Maintenance of City's collection and drain of acquisition funds

2. Commissioner Riley presented the challenges in funding for art in the Redmond community:

- King County grant reduction
- Limited staff time
- Administrative position salary taken from RAC operating budget
- Expenses of sculpture garden, arts education, art concerts
- Responding to many residents' requests for art projects

Riley presented a handout with an analysis of the \$1.25 per capita overview from 1999-2004, showing a loss (\$40,000) through inflation. She requested a continued dialogue with City Council in trying to resolve these challenges.

D. Council Members Comments

Councilperson McCormick emphasized the leaner budget situation going into the next budget cycle. Councilperson Cole suggested the Commission could do fewer things with more money, or more things with less money. Schmidt responded that RAC is looking into prioritizing, as well as the 40% allocation of the \$1.25 per capita to be spent for visual art purchases. However, as maintenance costs diminish the Visual Arts budget, percentages are lower for art. Councilperson Paine responded that the Council is open to recommendations for change in allocations. LaBrunerie commented that after the RAC September retreat discussions, Commissioners could be looking at a recommendation with perhaps more flexibility.

Paine applauded the RAC's work production and the Commissioners as representatives to the community. He encouraged their recommendations and future dialogue.

McCormick requested that RAC look into relocating the Dudley Carter "Fantail Birds" so as to be seen and appreciated more visibly. Schmidt stated it is on a list to be addressed. McCormick noted that she reads the RAC minutes every month, and commended Commissioners for the energy they put forth.

Schmidt requested to meet jointly on a regular basis and suggested a time early in 2003. Council member Cole spoke positively about future joint meetings and affirmed that Council would like to meet with RAC at that time.

Councilperson Robinson commented that the purpose behind allocations of percent money is to maintain a balance, but he encouraged Commissioners to strategize a proposal and ask for what they want, especially as the City enters the budget season. He stated the meeting with Council members tonight was a "step in the right direction." He thanked the Commissioners for their contribution in serving the community.

McCormick expressed cautioned regarding the Fire Station art project recommendation of the water wall. Schmidt clarified there had been a miscommunication with the Fire Department, which now had been clarified. The Visual Art Committee's new recommendation would be forthcoming at this night's RAC meeting for the bronze statute firefighter with outstretched hand.

Commissioners thanked the Council members for attending the joint meeting and presented each with a barret hat, a lesson book from the art curriculum project going out to the elementary schools, and Arts in the Parks posters and brochures.

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REGULAR RAC MEETING AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jill Schmidt called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) at 8:00 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of May 9, 2002 RAC minutes as submitted by: Commissioner LaBrunerie

Second by: Commissioner Byrne

Motion carried: 8-0 unanimous

III. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

IV. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Larry Andrew, Redmond Water Department, presented an art project for consideration. Showing a picture of a large tree stump, he explained that some trees were cut down on the water tank at Reservoir Park, leaving this one stump. The City's Water Department would like to make a carving out of it, specifically an eagle with a fish. They have researched an artist, who has looked at the site and believes he could carve it for under \$1,000 approximately. A 3-year coat of preservative would be applied to the finished sculpture. Commissioners viewed pictures of the artist's work.

Andrew conveyed that the Water Department is asking for RAC support; however, because they want the sculpture done, they would provide the maintenance funding for it. He asked Commissioners for a support consensus, as they would want the carving to begin as soon as possible, due to the current unappealing visual impact to the community.

Skillingstead recommended they obtain a second proposal, e.g. Ralph Bennett, as they would still need to go through the City's process of acquiring proposals for public art. Following the proposals that come in, the Visual Arts Committee reviews them and makes recommendations to the Commission. They consider price estimates as well as appropriateness of the carving.

In addition, Skillingstead stated the Park Board would need to be involved in the process, and public safety would be a consideration, since over time the sculpture would tend to breakdown. There would not be ongoing maintenance costs to the RAC with the

sculpture if the Water Department would apply the preservative product every three years. Schmidt will compile questions for the Water Department regarding what they are willing to do to facilitate the process and maintain the art.

Byrne suggested posting a sign on the stump to state that an art proposal is pending. LaBrunerie proposed having *Redmond Reporter* write an article. Skillingstead stated the sign would be acceptable and helpful, and should include the Water Department's phone number. However, she thought it best to wait on the news article until proposals were submitted.

Skillingstead asked Andrew to meet with Ralph Bennett to obtain a second opinion and ask for a conceptual drawing and dollar amounts of costs.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. *Write Out Loud!* Final Report

Paulette Rousselle, from Redmond Association of the Spoken Word (RASP), who oversaw the planning of the fifth annual *Write Out Loud!* festival, presented a summary report and handouts of the budget results. R.A.S.P received funding from RAC and The Jaech Foundation, which helped to increase publicity and bring in a nationally known author. Rousselle elaborated on each event and its success.

Rousselle presented this year's challenges:

1. Ticket revenues as part of the budget
 - Forced more aggressive publicity
 - Worked with more businesses in the community to ensure the income
2. Print shop communication and timing for deadlines
 - Printing staff changed at height of printing needs
3. Unexpected expenses previously paid in year's past by the City
 - Budget estimate ended up being off due to planning with last year's numbers
 - Next year's event will be planned earlier and itemized more precisely

LaBrunerie praised Rousselle and RASP for a fantastic job. She encouraged them to engage earlier in working to get more attendance, especially to the ticketed kickoff event. She supported early and repetitive promotional articles in the *Redmond Reporter* and *Seattle Times*.

Youth Advocate Jane Butterfield suggested using teens to advertise the event:

1. Advertise at the High School and Old FireHouse Teen Center
2. Use teens to perform or participate at the festival, so their friends would attend to support their efforts

3. Use little handbill flyers to hand out

Houghton suggested holding a pre-event starting in January. Rousselle has recommended to the R.A.S.P. board members to continue to do events throughout the year, e.g., with Border's Books and involving the public.

Rousselle announced they are beginning now to work on getting funds for next year. LaBrunerie volunteered to help with the process.

B. Fire Station 11 Art Project Finalist Recommendation

Schmidt reviewed that out of the four choices of art proposals for the Fire Station 11 art project, the Visual Arts Committee had previously recommended the water wall. However, the artist's conception was not acceptable to the firefighters. Schmidt met with each fire station shift to ascertain whether it was the medium or the concept itself with which they were opposed. The firefighters communicated that the medium of the water wall was less representative of the fire department than the bronze sculpture by Judy Phipps, which was preferred by a majority.

The Visual Arts Committee met to discuss a new recommendation, which resulted in the bronze firefighter. In addition, the Fire Department could decide to raise money for a plaza or walkway. The Committee recommended allocating funds in the future to do the bench by Mary Beth Llorens, but did not have the resources for this project now. The percent for art funds would cover the bronze work (\$20,000). The Committee would like to encourage the firefighters to move ahead with the plaza and walkway.

The artist would arrange for building the plinth upon which the statue would be mounted; the City would maintain the art.

Schmidt recommended revamping the process, since this process resulted in the firefighters perceiving they were unheard. Skillingstead noted that the purpose in holding the meetings with the Fire Department shifts was to clarify that their input was important and they were still being heard before the final decision was made.

Motion for approval of the bronze statue for the 1-% for Art for the Fire Station 11 Art Project by: Commissioner Schmidt
Second by: Commissioner McAlinden
Motion carried: 8-0 unanimous

Schmidt asked for a Commission consensus to fund part of the bench or a smaller bench, should a plaza be initiated. Funding for the bench would most likely deplete all of the Visual Arts money for this year. Riley emphasized that firefighters must realize RAC cannot pay for it all. Skillingstead noted there would need to be a collaborative design work between the Parks Department and Fire Department.

Byrne cautioned to stay on the level of communication and recommendations regarding the bench, listening to the fire fighters' voice. Commissioners gave a consensus to help fund the bench as a possibility.

Skillingstead would include the bronze sculpture recommendation as an action item on the City Council agenda for July or August. She would let the artists know that Judy Phipps has been selected to do the bronze work, and inform Llorens that the City may be interested in a re-working of the bench for a plaza, should it be considered in the future.

C. Accept 2002 Arts Awards – Pettelle's "Helping Hands"

Commissioners reviewed the bronze relief sculptures "Helping Hands," the 2002 City of Redmond Volunteer Arts Award. Skillingstead invited Kevin Pettelle to next Tuesday's (6/18/02) City Council reception, to be held at 6:45 p.m. prior to the presentation of awards. *Identical Harmony* will perform at the Arts Day kickoff celebration at the beginning of the Council meeting. Adams will introduce the Arts in the Parks 2002 concerts.

Motion for approval of Kevin Pettelle's 2002 bronze art award piece by:

Commissioner Tarapolsi

Second by: Commissioner Byrne

Motion carried: 8-0 unanimous

D. Redmond Arts Day Planning

Byrne volunteered to be present to take pictures, specifically of the Mayor and Arts Awards recipients at the Arts Day event on 6/18/02. Skillingstead asked for volunteers to help set up between 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Riley volunteered to serve at the punch bowl.

Skillingstead will e-mail the presentation script to the Mayor on Monday. She noted that Judy Hewitt, an award recipient, would not be present to accept. Tarapolsi volunteered to accept the award on Hewitt's behalf.

E. Schedule Fall Retreat

Commissioners decided on Monday, September 9, 2002 as the date for the RAC fall retreat. It will be a potluck dinner, beginning at 6:00 p.m. followed by retreat discussion. Pending availability, it will be held at Anderson House. Skillingstead will follow up to reserve the location.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Permanent Donations Box/Donations Assessment

Schmidt asked Commissioners if they would like an introductory speech at Arts in the Parks performances similar to that given at the Winter Performance Series. Commissioners agreed it was important to direct the audience to the donation box, etc. Adams volunteered to do the speech, including reference to donations.

B. Derby Days Booth

Derby Days parade and booth will be held on Saturday, July 13. The booth may be staffed with Commissioner volunteers from approximately 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Parade check-in time is 9:30 a.m. to prepare for the 10:00 a.m. parade, which concludes at 11:30 a.m. or 12:00 p.m.

Byrne, Tarapolsi, and Adams volunteered to walk in the parade and hand out art related brochures, following along with Janet Rayor on her “dancing stilts.” Long-necked puppets would also accompany Rayor’s performance in the parade. Skillingstead will also ask Rayor to come to the booth at the end of the parade.

The following volunteered to assist with these activities:

- Sidewalk chalk art: Skillingstead will provide chalk
- Coloring page of City art: Tarapolsi
- Texture for rubbing: Byrne

Byrne volunteered to take the first shift at the booth from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. Riley offered a second shift beginning at 2:00 p.m. Skillingstead will order three tables, with a 10 x 10 canopy.

VII. REPORTS

A. Arts Commissioner/Committees

1. Chair and Vice Chair

a. Chairperson Schmidt

- 1) Schmidt announced the Safeco invitation for the tour of the premises and food on June 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The dedication of the art would occur at 7:00 p.m. Skillingstead will RSVP for herself and

Commissioners Tarapolsi, LaBrunerie, Byrne, Schmidt, McAlinden, and Houghton.

- 2) Skillingstead and Schmidt attended the Local Arts Agency meeting. Schmidt reported it was an opportunity to network and receive good support.
- 3) Jill Dalager, at the last Arts Education Committee meeting, commented that as the organizer of *Celebrate Redmond*, she often appears before City Council as an “Items from the Audience” to share a 4-minute update, information, requests, etc. Schmidt recommended RAC do the same from time to time, to speak on issues, needs, and updates to stay connected with Council. Commissioners were supportive of the idea. Commissioners may sign up the day of a Council meeting to speak.

b. Vice Chair McAlinden

Postponed to next month.

2. Visual Arts

Postponed to next month.

3. Literary Arts

Postponed to next month.

4. Arts Education

A grant was approved in the amount of \$10,000 from the WSAC for the 2002-03 third through sixth grade Curriculum Development Project. McAlinden noted the program was given a “10 out of 10” rating by the WSAC for exemplary grants.

Remainder of Arts Education Committee report postponed to next month.

5. Grants

Postponed to next month.

6. Performing Arts

Adams reported that Arts in the Parks was published in the *Microsoft Benefits* newsletter.

7. Arts Funding – NEXUS

Postponed to next month.

8. Youth Advocate

Postponed to next month.

9. Marketing

Postponed to next month.

B. Staff Reports

Skillingstead reported on the following:

1. Arts in the Parks Final Schedule / Derby Days Parade

Arts in the Parks schedules have been distributed. Skillingstead asked Commissioners to inform her if they would like more schedules or posters.

2. Rockefeller Grant Application

Rockefeller Grant Application was submitted again. Karen Brandon, City's grant writer, re-wrote the grant in a story format.

3. Dorothy Mullen National Arts & Humanities Program Award Application

An application was made for the NPRA Dorothy Mullen National Arts & Humanities Program award for recognition of the Arts Education Curriculum Project. Patrick Hirsch, RCTV, did a clip of interviews and of training for the project.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by: Commissioner LaBrunerie

Second by: Commissioner Adams

Motion carried: 8-0 unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

NEXT REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION MEETING:
July 11, 2002
Old Redmond School House Community Center
7:00 p.m.

Redmond Arts Commission

Meeting: June 13, 2002

Audience Present

Please note: Information provided at this public meeting becomes part of the City's permanent record.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
Cris Berns	9321 160 th Pl. NE	
Nik Staritchenok	10609 NE 146 th St. Bothell	
Paulette Rousselle	R.A.S.P.	
Larry Andrew	MOCPW/City of Redmond staff	
Tom Trueblood	ORSPK/City of Redmond staff	
Danny Hopkins	CAPKA/City of Redmond staff	